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in which these improvements are recommended, was adopted by the unanimous vote of the Trustees. No provision, however, was made for carrying the plan into execution,—the pecuniary means of the College not being at present sufficient for that object. By accepting the report, they intended to express their approbation of the general plan, and their intention of incorporating the new course of instruction with their present four years' course; and to add the department of education, as soon as they can obtain the necessary means. The mechanic department they consider of less immediate consequence, but as deserving of a trial, as soon as the funds of the College will permit.

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## 13.—*Elements of Mineralogy, adapted to the Use of Seminaries and Private Students.* By J. L. Comstock, M. D. 8vo. pp. 338. Boston. 1827. S. G. Goodrich.

From the introduction of the Elements of Mineralogy as a branch of study in so many of our schools and higher seminaries, the want of a convenient and correct work, suitable for beginners, has been for some time felt. We know of no book which, in the present state of the science, is every way calculated to serve as an introduction to the more extended treatises. Professor Cleaveland, we had heard, was preparing such a work, and he will not find in the volume before us any cause for relinquishing his undertaking. Although Dr Comstock has presented us with much of the matter of Professor Cleaveland's volumes, we do not think that he has enriched it by the additions from other writers.

Since the publication of Professor Cleaveland's work, mineralogy has advanced with rapid strides, and while a vast number of new substances have been brought to light, others that were then considered as distinct species or varieties have been discarded. Of this Dr Comstock does not seem sufficiently aware, and as to new American localities, we find no evidence of his having ever heard of them. Most surely, in an American work, and one too professedly designed 'to facilitate the progress of science,' our own localities should have been diligently examined and made known. On the contrary, many of those which have afforded choice and abundant specimens are wholly omitted, while old errors, both as regards the localities and the minerals themselves, are retained.

Thus our author does not appear to have known that some of the finest crystals of Chrysoberyl have occurred at Saratoga, that Tabular spar has been *occasionally* found at Ticonderoga;

Yenite, Amethyst, and Grossulare at Rhode Island; Egerane at Worcester; Amazon stone at Beverly; Asparagus stone at Billerica, &c.

Among other instances of an unpardonable inattention to the progress of the science, we may notice the description of Humite, which our author should have known has proved to be Condrodite (or what he calls Chondorcite), and so of Sillimanite, which has been ascertained to be Cyanite, and of Meionite, which is now referred to Scapolite. Under 'crystallized lepidolite,' we are told that it occurs at Paris in Maine, where no such thing is known; what was guessed to be such, is undoubtedly the kind of pseudomorphous talc, a substance *not exactly like a mica.*

In excluding from the external characters of minerals the angular measurements, he has at once struck out one of the three all important characters; and although we have a table at the beginning of the volume, it is incomplete, and, from the trouble of frequently turning back to it, will probably be altogether neglected by the pupil.

An air of parade is given to this book by the introduction of a few of Professor Mohs' new terms; but no kind of explanation is given, and we strongly suspect our author knows but little about it. It is but lately, it is true, that this new system has been made accessible, and its mysteries revealed by the labors of Mr Haidinger, but his work has been long enough before the public for any one to have made himself acquainted with its principles. To introduce us at once, without any preparation, to 'Pyramidal Pearl-Kerate' and 'Empyrodox Quartz,' is somewhat appalling; and we can well imagine the utter despair into which the 'private student' will sink at the sight of 'Brachytypous Parachrose-Baryte.' In giving, here and there, these and a few other of Mohs' synonyms, a ridiculous effect is given to his whole system, which it was due to the distinguished author to avoid, and which a few pages of explanation might have prevented.

This work is as full of errors of the press, as of the pen, and so far from facilitating the progress of science, carries us back something like ten years.